

part of the trees now standing appeared to be on the decline, and when they are gone there is but little to build a hope on for a succession of the same species.

*Circumspection of Ants.*—Professor LEIDY remarked that, a number of years ago, he had been led to an observation on the little red ant, sometimes a great pest to our dwellings, which would indicate a ready disposition to become circumspect. When he purchased his present residence, while it was undergoing some repairs, he noticed a fragment of bread, left by a workman in one of the second-story rooms, swarming with ants. Apprehending that the house was seriously infested, to ascertain whether it was so he placed a piece of sweet cake in every room from the cellar to the attic. At noon every piece was found covered with ants. Having provided a cup of turpentine oil, each piece was picked up with forceps and the ants tapped into the oil. The cake was replaced, and in the evening was again found covered with ants. The same process was gone through the following two days, morning, noon, and night. The third day the number of ants had greatly diminished, and on the fourth there were none. He at first supposed the ants had all been destroyed, but in the attic he observed a few feasting on some dead house flies, which led him to suspect that the remaining ants had become suspicious of the sweet cake. He accordingly distributed through the house pieces of bacon, which were afterwards found swarming with ants. This was repeated with the same result for several days, when, in like manner with the cake, the ants finally ceased to visit the bacon. Pieces of cheese were next tried, with the same results; but with an undoubted thinning in the multitude of ants. When the cheese proved no longer attractive, recollecting the feast on dead flies in the attic, dead grasshoppers were supplied from the garden. These, again, proved too much for the ants; and, after a few days' trial, neither grasshoppers nor anything else attracted them; they appear to have been thoroughly exterminated, nor has the house since been infested with them.

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DECEMBER 11

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Twenty-six members present.

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DECEMBER 18.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Twenty-nine members present.

The death of John McAllister, Jr., was announced.